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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,039	04/18/2001	William Whitehead	85939.000189	9206

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EXAMINER

STRIMBU, GREGORY J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/837,039

Applicant(s)

WHITEHEAD, WILLIAM

Examiner

Gregory J. Strimbu

Art Unit

3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9,13-17,20-23 and 42-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9,13-17,20-23 and 42-76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 17 October 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Drawings***

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on October 17, 2002 have been approved.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 9, 55, 56, 57, 63 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent Publication No. 197 44 240. German Patent Publication No. 197 44 240 discloses a vehicular weatherseal 73 comprising an elongate polymeric body (not numbered, but seen in figure 8) including a sealing portion (not numbered), the sealing portion and the elongate polymeric body being monolithic, a seating channel (not numbered) extending along a longitudinal dimension of the polymeric body and a light generating line 58 connected to the body and extending along a longitudinal dimension of the body for generating and emitting light.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

Art Unit: 3634

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9, 13-17, 20-23, 42-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Den Oord in view of German Patent Publication No. 197 44 240 and German Patent Application No. 198 41 180. Van Den Oord discloses a vehicular weather seal which seals a gap intermediate a first confronting surface (not shown) and a second confronting surface (not shown), the first and second confronting surfaces moveable between a spaced apart open position and an adjacent closed position, the vehicular weather seal comprising an elongate polymeric body 6 attached to the first confronting surface, the polymeric body including a sealing portion 8, the sealing portion spaced from the second confronting surface in the spaced apart open position of the confronting surfaces and the sealing portion contacts the second confronting surface in the adjacent closed position of the confronting surfaces, a carrier portion 10, a metal reinforcing member 14, a trim portion 20. Van Den Oord is silent concerning a light generating line.

However, German Patent Publication No. 198 41 180 discloses a side emitting optic glass fiber cable 9 for illuminating the area around a door.

Additionally, German Patent Publication No. 197 44 240 discloses placing a light generating lines 58 in the sealing portion of a sealing member 73 via a seating channel (not numbered, but seen in figure 8), the light generating lines do not extend the entire length of the seal as shown in figure 9.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Van Den Oord with a pair of side emitting optic glass fiber cables, as taught by German Patent

Art Unit: 3634

Publication No. 198 41 180, in the sealing portion of Laughman et al., as taught by German Patent Publication No. 197 44 240, to illuminate the area surrounding the door opening for safety.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed March 12, 2003 have been fully considered but they moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS NOT MADE FINAL.**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Strimbu whose telephone number is 703-305-3979. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3597 for regular communications and 703-305-3597 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3634

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2168.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Strimbu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Gregory J. Strimbu  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634  
July 30, 2003